

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Modern Day Galatians
Galatians 1-4

Last time...we ended with [Ch 4:30-31](#)

Cast out the wolves in sheep's clothing that have changed the Gospel of Grace into a gospel of works salvation!

By the faith of Christ

By the Promise of the Spirit thru faith

By salvation by grace thru faith

We are NOT in bondage to sin and death

We stand in liberty/freedom in Christ Jesus!

At this pivot point in the Epistle to the Galatians...to "free" and "liberty" ([Ch 5:1](#))... we went on vacation to middle Tennessee

And while there, enjoying cool morning and evening breezes while sitting on a quiet front or back porch looking out onto a beautiful green field surrounded by beautiful green trees and listening to the Lord, what we have studied thus far in Galatians came more clearly into focus for me

This time...the clarity of Gal 1-4 the Lord gave me, before pivoting to Gal 5-6

Let's first re-establish what has been written in Chapters 1-4

Paul is defending the Gospel, the Gospel of Grace, to...believers in relationship with God

[Gal 1:1-5](#)

The believers have been bewitched by a false gospel, a perversion of The Gospel

[Gal 1:6-9](#)

False teachers have infected the churches in Galatia, just as they had in Jerusalem

[Gal 2:4](#)

The works-based salvation perversion is very deceiving, insidious, and hypocritical

[Gal 2:11-14](#)

Salvation/justification comes only by the faith of Christ, not by works of man

[Gal 2:16, 20](#)

If the perverted gospel is true, everything in the testimony of God about Jesus is false

[Gal 2:21](#)

The foolish believers have been bewitched by a gospel of self-righteousness

[Gal 3:1-3](#)

Righteousness comes by faith, not by works...as declared by God Himself

[Gal 3:6-11](#)

Jesus saves, works condemn

[Gal 3:13-14a](#)

The promise of the Spirit (Life) comes by faith, not works

[Gal 3:14b](#)

The promise (of the Father, of the Spirit of Life) was given to Jesus

Gal 3:16-17a

That promise is given to those who believe

Gal 3:22, 26

Thus, we are children of God and heirs of God by faith, by the work of faith by Jesus Christ and not by our works

Gal 4:4-7, 28

The Gospel of Grace: Life and liberty (both spiritual and eternal) come by

- the faith of Christ
- the work of Christ
- the promise of the Father to those who believe (our work of faith, John 6:28-29)

The Gospel of Grace is ALWAYS under attack by the devil who seeks to condemn, distract, discourage, and destroy or render fruitless

The Gospel of Grace is corrupted by SELF-righteousness...works-based salvation

Thus, this defense of the Gospel of Grace, the Epistle to the Galatians

This corruption of a false gospel is not theoretical, it is real and it is contemporary

The Lord showed me two contemporary examples while being refreshed in Tennessee

Example #1: The Amish – the more visible example

Our AirBnB was a little farmhouse in Amish Country in a little town named Ethridge.

Sitting on the front porch, we would watch a lot of Amish folks go by in their 1-HP vehicles, horse drawn carriages, or their 2-HP vehicles, farm wagons

We also took a tour thru a part of the Amish country

Learning came by listening, observing, and researching

From my research:

[Amish Links]

[Got Questions.org]

From our Tour regarding the Amish lifestyle:

- separation of the genders in almost every circumstance
- kids = farm help (therefore have many)
- no toys or cell phones – they promote laziness
- work, work, work – men/boys in the field and the wood shop, women/girls around the home
- Social Security = work insurance that promotes laziness
- the kids are paid for their work but all their wages go to the father until the child turns 21, at which time they keep their wages
- once the last child reaches age 21, the parents sell the farm to one of the children, have a new house built for them, and they “retire” (from farm work only, funded by children’s wages and farm sale proceeds) and are cared for by the children

- older female children raise the younger children while mom works
- older female children educate the younger children
 - education is in PA Dutch/German until 4th grade, when English is taught
 - highest level of education is 8th grade
- no mirrors – graven images
- no photographs – graven images and steal part of the soul

The issue/objective: holy living

Is holy living the Amish lifestyle?

Is unholy living not living the Amish lifestyle?

Are there Biblical hypocrisies in the Amish lifestyle?

What does holy living have to do with salvation?

Is it Christ-like to retreat from the world and not engage its inhabitants with the Gospel?

In the Light of Paul's defense of the Gospel of Grace in Gal 1-4:

- the Amish are believers, purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ
- The Amish are saved but
 - Gal 1:6-7...the self-righteous teachings of a man (Jacob Ammon)
 - Gal 2:16...their lifestyle of "holy living" (as carnally defined by that man) has been tacked onto the Gospel of Grace; works of man added to God's grace
 - Gal 2:20...the salvation is by Jesus' holiness, not man's "holiness"
 - Gal 2:21...adding their self-righteousness/holy living frustrates the grace of God
 - Gal 3:1-3...they are bewitched, striving to complete in the flesh that which was begun in the Spirit
 - Gal 3:24-25...their holy living takes liberty procured by Jesus on the Cross and changes it into legalism/bondage
 - Gal 4:19...it was very sad to see the un-Christ-likeness of "good" Christians

The faith of Christ is insufficient for them, they must add their works

Holy living does not make anyone holy

Holy (separated from the world and unto God) people live holy lives,
and that only by the power of the Spirit of Christ

Holy is a matter of the heart, not in Dos and Don'ts/rules/oral traditions
i.e. being vs doing

1 Cor 3:10-15...they are working very hard, investing in wood, hay, and stubble, to put chains back on

1 Cor 1:29-31 **no flesh** should glory in his presence. But **of Him** are ye in **Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:** That, according **as it is written**, He that glorieth, let him **glory in the Lord.**

Example #2: The Church of Christ – the more hidden example

Driving around to see middle Tennessee, we noticed a Church of Christ “on every street corner”, far more Church of Christ churches than Baptist churches

Church history

Reformation, breaking from RCC and yielding several Protestant denominations

One was Presbyterian...Calvinists (the teachings of Calvin and Knox i.e. of men)

Rejecting Calvinism, The Disciples of Christ split from Presbyterians

on the American frontier (east of Mississippi River) in the early 19th Century

- The Bible is the only standard of faith...keeping *Sola Scriptura*
- Literal view of the Bible
- “Christians” vs denominational labels
- Repudiation of all the Creeds of men (RCC, Lutheran, etc)
- Restoration of the NT Church
- NT is the most important revelation of God, more authoritative than OT

Then there was a split of the Disciples of Christ: use of instrumental music in worship

- The conservatives: Church of Christ – NO!
Since NT does not mention, musical instruments are a corruption of worship (legalism creeping in)
- The liberals/progressives: Christian Church – Why not?
Musical instruments are not in conflict with NT and can enhance worship

Church of Christ: strict, literal application of NT Scripture

If the NT is silent, “it” is unauthorized and corrupt

Christian Church: if the NT is silent and “it” is not in conflict with the NT, it is acceptable

The Church of Christ faction was led by a man named Barton Stone, whose close friend Walter Scott developed a “plan of salvation” (doctrines of man), which is a process to achieve salvation and membership into the NT Church

1. Faith...believe
2. Repentance
3. Confess faith in Jesus Christ
4. Baptism...immersion, in the NT Church, in the name of Jesus,
must be baptized to be saved (baptism is a work of man required before God grants salvation)
5. Remission of sins...not forgiven until baptized
6. Live faithfully as a Christian
All professing and baptized Christians are in the process of being saved...
works-based salvation

Later, the Church of Christ opposed “open membership”...
the reception of unimersed Christians from other denominations
i.e. could only be a member of the NT Church if were baptized in the Church of Christ
i.e. a claim like the RCC – “we are the one true church” outside of which there is no salvation

The Church of Christ has its heaviest concentration of congregations in TN and TX

Another example of believers in Jesus Christ being bewitched into embracing a works-based salvation...believers to whom is written the Epistle to the Galatians

Worshipping at Calvary Chapel Columbia on 7/11/21

Note: [*So Will I*]

Tim regarding his calling:
“Help those hurt by the Church.
You had better not be legalistic, Tim!
Be a minister of My grace.”

How does the Church hurt people?
When grace fails
Condemnation, legalism, judgmentalism

Application/Lesson

To this very day, the Church is filled with believers bewitched by a works-based salvation gospel...that is not another Good News and that perverts the Gospel of Christ

gospel of Self-righteousness

- The flawed attempting to add to the Perfect
- The finite attempting to reach the Infinite

And those non-Gospels of self-righteousness hurt people
But God’s Grace heals people

The Epistle to the Galatians is a very needed and contemporary defense of the Gospel of Grace...
to be shared with Christians!

2 Peter 3:18

How do we grow in grace?
Learn about it...increasingly so
Receive it...increasingly so
Give it...increasingly so

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved

2 Cor 3:5-6 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

2 Cor 3:17 where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost

Rom 7:6b we should serve in newness of spirit, and not *in* the oldness of the letter

John 6:28-29...and Him alone

John 8:31-32...not the teachings of man

Therefore:

1. All around us are people wounded by the Church
Many of us may have been wounded by the Church; I was
The Grace of God can heal them...as it healed me
Let us be ministers of God's grace!
2. The Church is not called to escape the world, but to engage the world and to be salt in the world
Where the Lord had put you in the world, do the work of an evangelist
Not standing on a street corner screeching at people
Not wearing a sandwich board telling passersby that they are going to hell

With a mind on others rather than on Self, listen and observe people and
be willing to engage in their lives
Be sensitive to their sufferings and triumphs
With gentleness and meekness, be matter-of-factly ready to say,
"The Bible says", whereby you can comfort, encourage, and
give hope to the hurting all around us